measures to keep the communal situation under control. Some of these measures are mentioned below:--

(i) Sharing of intelligence with the State Governments.

(ii) Assisting the State Governments by providing the Central Para-Military Forces etc. The Central Government has also constituted a Special Force, viz. Rapid Action Force, for controlling communal riots and tensions.

(iii) Assisting the State Governments in upgradation of their policing infrastructure.

(iv) Sending advisories to the State Governments from time to time.

The Government is firmly of the view that acts of violence against any community, wherever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

Statement

No. of communal incidents and no. of persons killed/injured therein during 1998

Month	No. of Incidents	No. of persons killed	No. of persons injured
January	47	10	108
February	52	13	307
March	83	22	309
April	60	33	145
May	65	24	191
June	59	30	210
July	42	14	123
August	42	6	146
September	55	11	145
October	53	13	177
November	36	12	70
December	32	19	134
TOTAL	626	207	2065

दाऊद गिरोह के लिए सरकारी हथियार

1614. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव:**
प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि दाऊद गिरोह के सदस्यों को सरकारी हथियारों की आपूर्ति की जाती रही है और अभी जारी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस मामले में कोई जांच करायी है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या परिणाम निकले और जांच के बाद क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो जांच न करने के पीछे क्या दिक्कतें थीं/या हैं?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) (घ) दाऊद गिरोह के सदस्यों को सरकारी शस्त्रों की आपूर्ति के संबंध में इस मंत्रालय को कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं मिली है। तथापि, इस मामले में संबंधित एजेंसियों की टिप्पणियां मांगी जा रही हैं।

ईसाई संगठनों को अनुदान

1615. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारत सरकार ईसाई संगठनों को अनुदान प्रदान करती है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इस प्रकार का अनुदान किन नियमों के अंतर्गत किया जाता है?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Committee to Study Invoking article 355 and 356

1616. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee has been set up from the last meeting of the Inter-State Council to study the basis on which Article 355 and Article 356 can be invoked by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether or not the invoking of Article 356 with respect to Bihar will undermine the objectivity of the exercises; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The agenda item relating to the Emergency Provisions of the Constitution was discussed in the Fifth meeting of the Inter-State Council (ISC) held on the 22nd of January, 1999. The ISC decided that the Sub-Committee under the Convenership of the Union Defence Minister should continue deliberations to evolve consensus on amendment of article 356. The Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu were also included in the Sub-Committee as Members.

(c) and (d) Invoking of article 356 in relation to the State of Bihar does not undermine the objectivity of the exercise. The constitution of the Sub-Committee does not imply that article 356 will not be used in appropriate cases.

Study on Condition of Jails and Prisoners

1617. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study recently with regard to conditions prevailing in the country's Jails and plight of those jailed, especially the undertrials and women prisoners;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the condition of jails and the plight of prisoners and make the jails play the role of corrective and reformatory institutions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) No such study has been made by the Central Government recently. However, interaction with the State Governments indicates that there is need to address the criminal Justice System in order to improve the plight of undertrials and women prisoners. According to available information, about 70% of the prison population consists of undertrials.

(c) 'Prisons' is a State subject as per the Constitution of India. As such, prison management is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been stressing upon the State Governments the need to improve the conditions in jails and make the jails truly corrective and reformatory institutions. Further, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments through the Finance Commissions awards as well as under the Central Scheme for Modernisation of Prison Administration for strengthening their prison infrastructure..

Insurgency in North-East Attributed to Poor Governance

1618. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a note prepared by the Home Ministry recently has attributed the spread of insurgency in the North-East to the poor governance by the State Governments of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Insurgency in the North-East is not merely a law and order issue but a complex issue. The ethnicity aspect, namely, the feeling of being different from the mainstream Indians, is pronounced in the North-East. The people also suffer from a feeling of "neglect" by the authorities. The change from a largely tribal society to a modern society has also contributed to the unrest. Pak ISI has been assisting the insurgents. Presence of long porous borders has facilitiated the movement of insurgent groups as well as the inflow of illegal arms into the region, besides the large scale influx of illegal migrants into the country. Insurgent groups have sanctuaries in some of the neighbouring countries. Lack of employment opportunities other than in Government sector has fuelled the influx of neo-literate youth into insurgent groups. Poor governance by some State Governments has also been a contributory factor.